

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 2, and 6-9 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 2-5 and 10-21 have been amended. Thus, claims 1, 2-5 and 10-21 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and Abstract by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In item 6 on page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner kindly indicated that claims 2-5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph (set forth in item 2 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action) and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, in order to expedite allowance of this application, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate therein the limitations of claim 2, and all of the claim language has been reviewed and revised to improve its English grammar and U.S. form, and specifically to obviate the problems enumerated by the Examiner in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Also, claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

More specifically with regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, the recitation "to remove urethane resin" has been clarified to recite "to remove urethane sponge." Also, the phrase "said step of coating" of previous claims 2 and 3 is no longer included in the claim language. Rather, claim 1 now specifies that "said reducing of the void rate of said urethane sponge comprises coating polyethylene terephthalate on said urethane sponge." Claim 3 refers to "said coating of said polyethylene terephthalate on said urethane sponge." Regarding the phrase "said porous metal plate", this phrase has been provided with exact antecedent basis by revising the language of claim 1 to recite "firing said urethane sponge to obtain a porous metal plate ...". Regarding the criticism of claim 10, claim 10 now specifies that the thinning of the

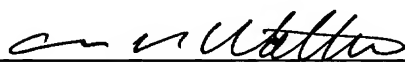
urethane sponge is carried out "after said peeling of said urethane sponge has been carried out or after both said peeling and said plating of said urethane sponge have been carried out." This limitation is supported in the original specification at, for example, lines 1 and 2 of the page 13 (noting that the grinding shown in P04 of Fig. 1 is one means of carrying the thinning of the urethane sponge). Regarding the step of peeling, it is now specified in claim 10 "peeling said urethane sponge to form said urethane sponge in a first thickness by using a foam cutting machine." Regarding the criticism of claim 11, claim 10 now specifies that the thinning (which according to claim 11 comprises grinding) is carried out either after the peeling has been carried out or after both the peeling and the plating have been carried out. Likewise, regarding the criticism of claim 16, claim 10 now specifies that the thinning (which according to claim 16 comprises rolling) is carried out after the peeling is carried or after both the peeling and the plating are carried out.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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